

The Woman's Page of The Times-Dispatch

Boarding School

Do you know that the town is full of the loveliest little girls in the world? Maybe they wouldn't like me to call them "little girls," but that is what they really are, with faces as soft and beautiful as flowers and bright, happy hearts. What are they going to do the next few years, between the time they stop playing dolls and tuck up their hair and actually formally begin to go out in society?

Some of them are right this very day walking up and down the street in pretty frocks, with all the boys they know their own age head over heels in love with them. They treasure pressed violets and sleep with little letters under their pillows, with a world of sentiment in their souls that we have almost forgotten about. These harmless little love affairs are really all right. They never hurt anybody in the world; they just make a boy's heart warm and loving and let a girl find out a little bit of the happiness that she is coming to some of these days. But so far so good. Pretty soon the boys "little girls," and right then and there is the time for a mother with any sense at all to pack her pretty daughter's trunk for boarding school.

Boarding school or college, either one, is a wonderful developer of many other things besides gray matter. It brings out all sorts of nice things in a girl's nature that you never would have known were there. At home you can fret and have temper tantrums whenever anything happens to be the least bit out of the way, and my! but aren't affairs of the nation upset. Given that same girl in that same temper at boarding school, she very soon finds out that there are at least several hundred other girls in school besides herself that are probably that very minute in the most happy frame of mind; nobody has time to bother with her and her disagreeable old feelings. Girls very soon catch on, and the sun shines on just the same, and nobody has time to notice a mood at school where such fascinating things are always happening and being planned. The school is by no means out of kilter because nobody is peevish.

Then, too, when a girl stays at home she never quite gets that same independent feeling; she has never learned to make decisions for herself; (true, at the time they seemed most momentous, she has never been in the position where she must sink or swim according to her own merit and accomplishment. At school she becomes a part of a great world that is her own. The girls there are all on the same footing, and attainment in various ways is open to every one. If she is a studying and entertaining with her little smattering of lessons at home, give her mind a chance to really learn something that is in the world besides the purple eyes of the boy that carries her books home from high school.

Don't you know that many years from now, when her little soul is up against bigger things, it will be like a tree that has grown against a wall all its life; it is fine and thick and blooming on one side, but the other is misshapen and stunted? It hasn't grown a bit on that side, and there is a part of her nature that no one can ever bring out under later circumstances. Send your little daughter to boarding school, just for a little while; see what she can do by herself. It is very healthy at least.

BRENT WITT.

Some Waxes of the World.

There are benefits to be derived from co-operation in the hiring of automobiles, even as in buying grapefruit or real estate. This many of the impetuous rich have discovered recently, and some of the smart-looking little machines that are whizzing about town with fair maids enthroned within not only are not owned by the occupants, but are not even rented by them alone. Two or three girls whose allowances permit of their hiring an automobile once in a while by the hour discover that by combining funds they can make up the cost of keeping one by the month, which means that it is at their service all the time. As to the girls who make such an arrangement are naturally intimate friends, they often have the same engagements and are going to the same place at the same time, so it is easy enough for one to call the car a few minutes earlier and stop a the way to pick up her partners. When their engagements are not identical, then, of course, is when the troubles begin. Good friends usually are equal to the emergency. Constance agrees to let Imogene have the machine on Monday morning and to leave her own shopping until Tuesday, for, as she philosophically remarks:

"It's no more of a hardship to walk once in a while now than it used to be to walk all the time before we had the machine, and it's worth the inconvenience now and then to have it for evening affairs and the bridge clubs, to which we both go every week."

The young man who had not noticed it was Lent, discovered the car when the girl of his acquaintance in front of the Public Library with a huge volume on her arm.

"What is it?" he asked in a humorous tone, as he took the tome from her, but his laughter turned to real amazement when he read the title, "The Philosophy of Confucius."

"What on earth?" he gasped.

"Oh," she answered, flushing a little, "that's for my Lenten debate. I'm to uphold the affirmative side of 'Resolved, That the Chinese religion is better for the Chinaman than Christianity.'"

"We meet once a week during Lent at some girl's house to have the debate, and you see, it's much easier to get Chinese material. You can ask the laundry man. Honest, do you know, I saw a very good-looking Chinaman in the bus the other day. I almost asked him if he had the Ten Commandments in Chinese religion, but I was afraid he'd think I was queer, so I saved it up to ask Charlie on our block, who knows me. Another way we have of finding out what the books are trying to say is to ask some returned missionary or the secretary of a foreign missions board—they know everything, and they're more interesting than the books because they can tell nice little stories about their experiences in queer countries."

The new white silk shirtwaists are so constructed that it is possible for them to be worn a reasonable length of time without being laundered. As the collar and cuffs quickly become soiled, a new idea has been worked out to take care of this objection. These waists are cut in mannish shirt style and made from heavy wash silk in striped patterns of lavender, green, tan and rose. The button-through, soft-finished collar and cuffs are detachable, being fastened to the waist by means of pearl buttons.

The collar and cuffs are reversible, the outside showing in plain white silk, and the under side the striped material like the waist. When they become soiled, they can be unbuttoned, turned on the other side, and again fastened to the waist, with every appearance of having been made expressly to wear with that side out. These waists will be a real boon to the traveler, the athletic girl and the business woman, as a freshening of the waist can quickly be made.

Taffeta and lace used as a waist combination is quite new. Those with scalloped taffeta bands over the shoulder, the finishing hems on cuffs, and other touches of silk used in the waist, give an attractive suggestion of color, which brings the white waist in harmony with the suit skirt. Another use of taffeta with this dressy blouse is the employment of taffeta lapels, boleros and jackets. The most popular colors in these taffetas, including black, are dark blue, the changeable blue and green, blue and black, brown and blue, tan and green, red and blue, black and white and purple and black.

The Vogue for the semi-tailored and dressy suit is no doubt responsible for the number of three-quarter and seven-eighths length sleeves now being

shown in two-piece costumes. When the long sleeve is used it is usually finished off with a rill of lace at the waist, which runs up half-way to the elbow, making a very pretty finish. As three-quarter length sleeves would not be at all graceful if made straight, the majority have considerable fullness below the elbow, being cut somewhat on the order of the kimono, but most of them are set in at the armhole, and a few several inches below. The trimming usually consists of a deep cuff or cuff effect to correspond with the collar and revers. The strictly tailored suit naturally calls for a straight-cut sleeve. Outer garments of a dressy character have the three-quarter length sleeve. While this is sometimes set in with a large armhole, in many cases the sleeve is cut in one with the body of the garment, giving the wrap effect, which is still popular in dressy garments.

Seldom has there been a season when so many fancy trimmed suits were seen as will be seen this spring. This is due to the popularity for the demi-tailor-made, which calls for a skirt to correspond. The newest idea is the draped skirt, which is seen in suits of soft materials, such as chiffon, taffeta and charmeuse. One skirt model has a slight fullness gathered into the front panel, and another model, which is somewhat similar, has the fullness drawn into the back panel instead of the front. Still another model has a draped overskirt showing the fullness on the right side only, with the left side hanging straight. In tailor-made suits overskirts and side trimmings are much used. Straight-cut skirts with pleats inset at the side or back, starting below the knees, are seen on some of the models designed for more general wear.

FAVORED STYLES

That Stitch in Time

No wonder the stitch in time fails to be taken when sewing appliances are not handy. The woman who must hunt for a needle and thread frequently neglects to use it as she should.

There are various contrivances for sewing conveniences, and no woman should be without a well-equipped sewing table or box in her room. Chief in beauty, also in cost, is the mahogany sewing table on colonial lines. The most convenient of these has the two end wings where stockings and large pieces of mending can be tucked. One with an extra shelf in the top has compartments for round pin cushions, Attach to the sides for buttons as well.

A home-made basket table should have a tripod made from three broomsticks painted white or dark green. In the top is fitted a deep round basket, like a large fig basket, which is lined with gay silk, but in an extra strip, divided into compartments for stockings, and to the bottom sew a pocket for a sewing box. A basket with a lid, though harder to find, keeps out much dirt.

A girl who had to economize space in her room at a boarding house in order of a shoe box. The case was made of a strip of linen twenty-one inches long and sixteen inches high. To this were sewed and pockets five inches wide and eleven inches high to hold darning and larger pieces of mending, while the central space was divided into various small pockets for spools of thread, buttons, sewing awls, tape, hooks and eyes and odds and ends.

The case was bound in white mercerized braid and supplied with rings at top and bottom to fasten to hooks in the closet door. The top was turned over by a flap to keep the contents of the pockets clean. Each compartment was labeled for its special use in white outlined letters.



ATTRACTIVE MODELS IN ARLINGTON SILK SERGE.

L'Art de la Mode.

Short Cuts for the Housekeeper

The only way to reduce the drudgery of housework, with its ill effects, is to have a system. In homes where one pair of hands must perform the many household duties, it is necessary to simplify the work if the housekeeper hopes to retain her health and energy. At first it seems an impossible task, but it can be done if one sets about the task and eliminates the things which are not necessary for comfort or beauty. Probably you have too many pictures, banners and mottoes on your walls, which need frequent dusting, or the sideboard is filled with cut glass and silver, which you use very little, but which needs frequent cleaning to keep it sparkling. The dining room is filled with plates, and other plates are suspended from wire hangers, or the table holds numberless bits of bric-a-brac or handsome books to be dusted every day.

One may think there is no art in sweeping and dusting, but she is mistaken. A good, clean, strong broom is needed, to begin with, and right here the advice of a broom-maker or a housewife who has learned the secret of the broom will not be amiss. He says we should never sweep ahead of us, for that breaks the splints, nor should we always sweep with the same side of the broom to the front, as that makes the broom lopsided. The correct way to use a broom is to hold the handle vertically, so that all the splints in the face of the broom will take hold at the same time. If a broom is used in this way it will sweep perfectly until worn almost to the binding threads. Dip your broom for a minute or two in your wash water and it is every bit as hygienic as wiping them. Always, thoroughly wash your dishcloth after using, and, if possible, dry in the sun. When you get up in the morning, put all the bedclothes over a chair, open a window and leave things,

Concerning Shoes

Judging from the shoes displayed at the spring openings, the Cuban or military heel is as popular as ever and will be worn on all occasions when it isn't discarded in favor of the Louis Quinze. The latter always more or less in vogue for evening wear.

All the shades of tan will be used for general street wear, but the lighter yellowish tones bid fair to present to be the most popular. White colonials and pumps will be worn almost exclusively with lingerie and tub frocks, the lighter shades of linen suits, and with all white costumes of whatever material. White satin and white kid slippers are used for general evening wear with frocks of all colors, but it is smarter to have the slippers match the gown.

An attempt was made by one or two designers to revive the combination of the white stockings with flat heeled low cut patent leather pumps, but it has met with little encouragement. There is a marked tendency toward conservatism in the footwear shown by the most exclusive houses. The bizarre effects noted in some of the cloth topped boots favored during the late winter are disappearing, and while the woman who can afford to have thirty or forty pairs of shoes at one time is ordering boots in suede or cloth in green, blue, halotone and rose to match her different costumes, the black and white and brown and white combinations which were seen two or three months ago are not being made up except for special occasions.

Whatever originality is permitted must take the form of individual designs in buckles which are shown in a large variety of shapes and materials. Gold, silver, rhinestones, metal, pearl, both smoked and white, and all the fashionable leathers are seen in the various modifications of the square, round, oblong, oval and diamond shaped buckles. Chiffon roses and butterflies, heavily studded with gold or silver sequins or rhinestones are extensively used on evening slippers, and one of the season's distinct novelties is the application of a gold or silver zig-zag design to the Louis Quinze heel.

One of the smartest models shown at recent openings was a black satin dancing slipper with a border of rhinestones around the top, a rhinestone buckle and the highest type of Louis heel studded with tiny rhinestones nail heads. Another slipper similar in cut and material showed a butterfly of gold beads in place of a buckle. There was no border, but the butterfly design was carried out in miniature on the heel.

For those who like more support when dancing than is afforded by the low cut high heeled slipper there are some charming models shown in Roman sandals of both Oxford and boot height. These are made up in all colors of satin, kid and suede, and are usually ornamental with an all-over design worked in gold, silver, pearl or steel beads.

Two fetching models for street wear with afternoon frocks are a black patent leather colonial with a cut steel buckle and a long camped pump, also of patent leather, finished with a sterling silver buckle with an engraved design. Low heeled patent leather pumps will be worn somewhat in the mornings with tub dresses, especially by girls still in their teens.

The stockings used with these should be of black silk, preferably unbordered and not too sheer. It is possible to match the different shades of tan leather in both silk and hosiery thread hosiery, and as the various manufacturers have taken special pains to bring about this condition of affairs, the woman who would be well dressed should take the time to find the tints that correspond with the leather she has selected, as a mixture of tones may spoil an otherwise smart costume. It is obvious that black hosiery should never be worn with tan shoes or white with any color but white, and yet women who are particularly regarding other details of their dress frequently adopt such combinations through inadvertence.

There are many elaborate effects in hosiery for evening wear, some of the more expensive models showing both hand embroidery and insets of real lace. These are also woven of silk, and should always be dry cleaned rather than washed, as the fabric is too delicate to stand even the most delicate rubbing or stretching. Some what heavier weaves of both silk and hosiery should be chosen for all kinds of walking shoes. It is no longer considered good form to wear open-worked hosiery with the short skirts now in vogue for street wear. These styles are extremely modish for afternoon wear with longer skirts, and will be used a great deal with patent leather and suede pumps.

A white thread silk stocking with black clockings has been specially designed for wear with a white kid topped leather boot that promises to be very popular with street costumes in April and May. This stocking is also very smart in combination with the white buckskin pumps and colonials which will be worn a great deal during the summer.

There is no doubt that we do not vary much from those of last year. Tan and white kid and buckskin are the leathers most used for all outdoor sports. Canvas is not so popular as it has been, although it will be worn during the very hot weather with tub dresses.

For the Stout Woman.

To have a perfect fitting gown, one must have a perfectly fitted under-skirt. The stout woman who desires to avoid any surplus fullness about the waist will wear the skirt with elastic fitted band and yoke. This yields to the figure, and insures a perfect fit about the hips. The mescaline skirt is one of the best to insure a snug fit, and, of course, no woman with any pretensions to correct dress wears a stiffly starched skirt. When the white lingerie skirt is worn with the foulard or a gown of sheer materials it needs only a very little starch, and that, of course, no woman with any pretensions to correct dress wears a stiffly starched skirt, which always shows the line where the starched skirt ends, below which the silk dress hangs in a most hopeless manner.

Many stout women dislike the shirt-waist because they cannot keep it smooth in the back. This bagginess may be obviated by cutting off the waist at the belt line, putting on a belt of the same material as the dress skirt, either with or without eyes or with snap fasteners. The waist will then fit smoothly and will give no extra fullness below the waist line.